

FORECAST OF CEREAL AND HAY HARVEST, 1926-27.

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(Based on November 30th Reports.)

WHEAT. 35,475,000 (28,603,101) Bushels. Average 13.41 (11.60) Bushels.I. ACREAGE CULTIVATED.

(1) Increases. The acreage, estimated mainly upon advices from farmers, sown for all purposes with Wheat, Barley and Oats records a total increase of 279,000 acres distributed as follows - Wheat 214,000, Barley 9,000, Oats 56,000 acres.

(2) Grand Totals. WHEAT. 2,965,000 (2,750,873) acres - Grain 2,645,000 acres; Hay 290,000 acres. In addition 30,000 acres have been reported as failure or fed off. BARLEY. 257,000 (248,023) acres; Grain 250,000 acres; Fed Off &c. 7,000 acres. OATS. 484,000 (428,347) acres; Grain 200,000 acres; Hay 250,000 acres; Fed Off &c. 34,000 acres.

II. ESTIMATED YIELDS.

Wheat - 35,475,000 (28,603,101) Bushels. Average 13.41 (11.60) Bushels.  
 Barley - 4,000,000 (4,134,824) Bushels. Average 16.00 (17.28) Bushels.  
 Oats - 2,200,000 (1,808,443) Bushels. Average 11.00 (11.38) Bushels.  
 Hay - Wheat 390,000 tons. Oats 287,500 tons. Total 677,500 (612,671) tons. Average 1.25 (1.18) tons per acre.

III. DIVISIONAL SUMMARIES.

Division	W H E A T		Average Bushels per Acre		Wheaten and Oaten Hay	
	Acres	Bushels	1926-27	Mean 1921-2 to 1925-6	Acres	Tons
Central	487,000	7,290,000	14.97	14.29	175,000	277,000
Lower North	731,000	11,990,000	16.40	15.96	127,000	167,000
Upper North	215,500	2,735,000	12.69	11.73	26,000	29,000
South Eastern	29,000	500,000	17.24	14.04	33,000	42,000
Western	606,000	6,905,000	11.39	7.53	62,000	52,500
Murray Mallee	576,500	6,055,000	10.50	8.74	117,000	110,000
<u>Grand Total</u>	<u>2,645,000</u>	<u>35,475,000</u>	<u>13.41</u>	<u>12.96</u>	<u>540,000</u>	<u>677,500</u>
Actual 1925-26	2,465,648	28,603,101	11.60	-	517,220	612,671
Increase	179,352	6,871,899	1.81	-	22,780	64,829

Averages per Acre. From the Summary, it will be seen that the estimated averages for the State and for each Division are well above the actual mean averages for the previous five seasons.

IV. GENERAL REMARKS.

The October Forecast (issued 2nd November) of 37,100,000 Bushels Wheat averaging 14 Bushels per acre was compiled from general reports only and was, if anything, an understatement of the then prospects. It was issued on the assumption of weather conditions remaining favorable. The November weather proved to be unfavorable. The forecast now issued based on conditions as at end of November should be more reliable as the available foundation data is more comprehensive. For this forecast the usual method was followed viz:- Police Officers in the various Wheat Centres furnished general reports on set forms covering definite questions and also obtained direct individual reports on forms for the purpose from a fair percentage of growers in each District. The Police Reports numbered 450, covering as many Districts, accompanied by individual returns from 2,300 growers.

individual returns from 2,300 growers. These have been carefully analysed in the Office and in a number of Districts cautiously revised in harmony with the official records of the experience of the previous years. Taken literally, the expectations of the returns from the 2,300 growers, representing 25% of the total wheat area sown, gave an average of

14.04 Bushels per acre for the State indicating that the October estimate was understated. In view, however, of the more moderate Police Reports and the disturbing weather conditions subsequent to the dates of the Reports and the probability that the 25% growers represented the better grade of farmers, a conservative revision was exercised in writing up the detail for November. It is thought therefore that the foregoing forecast of 13.41 Bushels per acre yielding 35,475,000 Bushels is reasonably safe, in view of the fact that it is actually well over 1,000,000 Bushels lower than the advices would justify, had they been tabulated literally.

#### V. SPECIAL COMMENTS BY POLICE OFFICERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Central Division. Heavy storms and hot north winds reduced averages of Barley and Oats in some Districts, but some of the best Districts were not affected. Less Hay being cut owing to low prices. Take-all reported here and there. Generally, however, a good season for wheat.

Lower North Division. Hot North winds, whiteheads and take-all reported. October wheat averages reduced over 1 Bushel for the Division. Still well above the average.

Upper North Division. Dry November dried off crops County Dalhousie but still good; less Hay. County Frome affected by hot winds and dry spell, take-all, rust and smut but not seriously. Yield good and above average.

South Eastern Division. Weather conditions better than last year. Everything looking well.

Western Division. Thunderstorms, take-all and hot winds affected crops. Grain pinched in some Districts, but crops reported to be yielding better than would be expected. Averages quite satisfactory and well above the average. Co. Le Hunte - best for years; this also applies to Counties Musgrave and Robinson. Co. Way better than previously expected.

Murray Mallee. Winds and storms knocked out grain. Some take-all. Hot winds pinched wheat and damaged some crops especially Oats. More being cut for Hay. The averages previously estimated are being well maintained, and are above the normal average.

#### VI. EXPORTABLE SURPLUS.

On a crop of 35½ million Bushels there should be an exportable surplus of 29,500,000 Bushels compared with 23,100,000 Bushels exported last Season.

#### VII. STOCKS OF OLD WHEAT AND FLOUR.

From returns of stocks held on November 30th last, it is estimated that 408,466 Bushels of Wheat were held - as flour 5,498 tons, as wheat 144,562 Bushels. The stocks of wheat and flour as wheat for former years were November 1925, 396,638 Bushels, 1924, 708,402 Bushels.

#### VIII. PRICES - AVERAGES FOR FIRST TWO WEEKS OF DECEMBER.

	Wheat per Bush.	Oats per Bush.	Barley per Bush.	Hay per Ton.
1926	5/4½	2/5	3/4	£3 2 6
1925	6/2	2/10½	3/8	£3 9 0
1924	6/2	2/2	5/6	£3 12 6
1923	4/4	2/9½	3/1	£4 1 3